

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

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Claim 1 (currently amended): In a telecommunication system configured to provide a connection between a caller and a callee via a telephone network, wherein the telephone network is configured to connect the caller and the callee, a method for ~~allowing the callee to prevent blocking future calls from the caller from establishing the connection with~~ to the callee, the method comprising:

connecting a call from the caller to the callee;

receiving an instruction from the callee to block future calls from ~~prevent the caller from establishing the connection with~~ to the callee;

identifying a first telephone number associated with the caller; and

preventing one or more phone calls from the first telephone number from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

Claim 2 (original). The method as in claim 1, wherein receiving an instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

Claim 3 (original). The method as in claim 2, wherein the predetermined code includes at least one of the following:

one or more digits; and

one or more non-numeric symbols.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The method as in claim 1, wherein identifying the first telephone number includes:

maintaining a record of the most recent telephone number that was a source of a call placed to the second telephone number immediately prior to receiving the callee's instruction to block future calls prevent from the caller ~~from establishing the connection with~~ to the callee; and

consulting the record to identify the most recent telephone number as the first telephone number.

Claim 5 (original). The method as in claim 2, wherein receiving the predetermined code includes:

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receiving a first portion of the predetermined code;
prompting the callee to send a second portion of the predetermined code; and
receiving the second portion of the predetermined code.

Claim 6 (original). The method as in claim 1, further comprising:
providing a database to allow the callee to enter the first telephone number therein,
wherein the database includes one or more telephone numbers to be blocked.

Claim 7 (original). The method as in claim 5, further comprising prompting the callee to perform administration tasks.

Claim 8 (original). The method as in claim 7, wherein prompting the callee includes prompting the callee to record a message to be played to the caller.

Claim 9 (original). The method as in claim 7, wherein prompting the callee includes prompting the callee to select a pre-recorded message to be played to the caller.

Claim 10 (original). The method as in claim 1, further comprising one of charging a subscription fee to the callee and charging a per-usage fee to the callee.

Claim 11 (currently amended). A telecommunications apparatus, comprising:
connecting a call from a caller to a callee;
means for receiving an instruction from the a callee to block future calls from the ~~prevent~~
~~a caller from establishing a connection with~~ to the callee
means for identifying a first telephone number associated with the caller; and
means for preventing one or more phone calls from the first telephone number from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

Claim 12 (original). The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the means for receiving includes:

means for detecting an off-hook signal from callee; and
means for receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

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Claim 13 (currently amended). A telecommunications system, comprising:
a telecommunications switch in communication with a first telecommunications device associated with a callee and a second telecommunications device associated with a caller
wherein the switch connects a call from the caller to the callee; and

a controller in communication with the switch, the controller having stored thereon instructions and data which, when executed, cause the telecommunications system to:

recognize an instruction from the callee to block future calls from ~~prevent the caller from establishing a connection with~~ to the callee;

identify a first telephone number associated with the caller; and

prevent one or more phone calls from the first telephone number from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

Claim 14 (original). The system of claim 13, wherein recognizing an instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from callee; and
receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

Claim 15 (original). The system of claim 13, further comprising a database in communication with the controller.

Claim 16 (original). The system of claim 13, further comprising an interactive voice response system in communication with the controller and the switch.

Claim 17 (original). The system of claim 13, further comprising a service creation computer in communication with the controller.

Claim 18 (original). The system of claim 13, wherein the switch is in communication with at least one of the first telecommunications device and the second telecommunications device via at least one of a public switched telephone network and an integrated services digital network.

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Claim 19 (currently amended). A computer-readable medium having stored thereon data and instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

connect a call from a caller to a callee;

receive an instruction from a the callee to block future calls from ~~prevent a~~ the caller ~~from establishing a connection with~~ to the callee;

identify a first telephone number associated with the caller; and

prevent one or more phone calls from the first telephone number from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

Claim 20 (original). The medium of claim 19, having stored thereon additional data and instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to receive an instructions from the callee by:

detecting an off-hook signal from callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee.